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- So *easy*, as to need the dull material force
Of eyes, or lips, or cheeks. *Denham's Sophy.*
- EASE. *n. f.* [eafz, French.]
1. Quiet; rest; undisturbed tranquillity; no solicitude.
We should not find her half so brave and bold
To lead it to the wars, and to the seas;
To make it suffer watchings, hunger, cold,
When it might feed with plenty, rest with *ease*. *Davies.*
The priest on skins of off-rings takes his *ease*,
And nightly visions in his slumber sees. *Dryden's En.*
Lucan, content with praise, may lie at *ease*
In costly grots and marble palaces. *Dryden's Juv. Sat. 7.*
Men of parts and penetration were not idly to dispute at
their *eases*, but were to act according to the result of their
debates. *Locke.*
No body is under an obligation to know every thing:
knowledge and science in general is the business only of those
who are at *ease* and leisure. *Locke.*
2. Freedom from pain; a neutral state between pain and
pleasure.
That which we call *ease* is only an indolency, or a freedom
from pain. *L'Esfrange.*
Is it a small crime to wound himself by anguish of heart,
to deprive himself of all the pleasures, or *eases*, or enjoyments
of life? *Temple.*
3. Rest after labour; intermission of labour.
Give yourselves *ease* from the fatigue of waiting. *Swift.*
4. Facility; not difficulty.
The willing metal will obey thy hand,
Following with *ease*, if favour'd by thy fate,
Thou art fore-doom'd to view the Stygian state;
If not, no labour can the tree constrain,
And strength of stubborn arms and steel are vain. *Dryden.*
5. Unconstrained; freedom from harshness, formality, forced be-
haviour, or conceits.
True *ease* in writing comes from art, not chance;
As those move easiest who have learn'd to dance. *Pope's Ess.*
To EASE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To free from pain.
Help and *ease* children the best you can; but by no means
bemoan them. *Locke.*
2. To relieve; to assuage; to mitigate; to alleviate.
Thy father made our yoke grievous, now therefore *ease*
thou somewhat the grievous servitude. *2 Chron. x. 4.*
Complain, queen Margaret, and tell thy grief;
It shall be *eas'd*, if France can yield relief. *Shakespeare's H. VI.*
As if with sports my sufferings I could *ease*. *Dryden.*
Though he speaks of such medicines as procure sleep, and
ease pain, he doth not determine their doses. *Arbutnot on Cains.*
Will he for sacrifice our sorrows *ease*?
And can our tears reverse his firm decrees? *Prior.*
3. To relieve from labour.
If ere night the gathering clouds we fear,
A long will help the beating storm to bear;
And that thou may'st not be too late abroad,
Sing, and I'll *ease* thy shoulders of thy load. *Dryden's Paff.*
4. To set free from any thing that offends.
I will *ease* me of mine adversaries. *Jf. i. 24.*
No body feels pain that he wishes not to be *eas'd* of, with a
desire equal to that pain, and inseparable from it. *Locke.*
EA'SFUL. *adj.* [*eafz* and *full*.] Quiet; peaceable; fit for
rest.
I spy a black, suspicious, threatening cloud,
That will encounter with our glorious sun,
Ere he attain his *easful* western bed. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*
EA'SMENT. *n. f.* [from *eafz*.]
1. Assistance; support; relief from expences.
He has the advantage of a free lodgings, and some other *eas-
ments*. *Swift.*
2. [In law.] A service that one neighbour has of another by
charter or prescription, without profit; as a way through his
ground, a sink, or such like. *Cowel.*
EA'SILY. *adv.* [from *eafz*.]
1. Without difficulty.
Those move swiftly, and at great distance; but they re-
quire a medium well disposed, and their transmission is *easily*
stopped. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 647.*
She ask'd the reason of his woe;
She ask'd, but with an air and mien,
That made it *easily* foreseen
She fear'd too much to know. *Prior.*
3. Without pain; without disturbance; in tranquillity.
Is it not to bid defiance to all mankind to condemn their
universal opinions and designs, if, instead of passing your life
as well and *easily*, you resolve to pass it as ill and as miserable as
you can? *Temple.*
3. Readily; without reluctance.
I can *easily* resign to others the praise of your illustrious
family. *Dryden's Dedication to State of Innocence.*
Not soon provok'd, she *easily* forgives;
And much she suffers, as she much believes. *Prior.*

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- EA'SINESS. *n. f.* [from *eafz*.]
1. Freedom from difficulty.
Believe me, friends, loud tumults are not laid
With half the *easiness* that they are rais'd. *Ben. Jonson's Catil.*
Easiness and difficulty are relative terms, and relate to some
power; and a thing may be difficult to a weak man, which
yet may be *easy* to the same person, when assisted with a
greater strength.
The seeming *easiness* of Pindarick verse has made it spread;
but it has not been considered. *Dryden.*
You left a conquest more than half achiev'd,
And for whose *easiness* I almost grieve'd.
This plea appears under a colour of friendship to religion,
and to invite men to it by the *easiness* of the terms it offers.
Rogers, *Sermon 15.*
2. Flexibility; compliance; readiness; not opposition; not re-
luctance.
His yielding unto them in one thing might happily put
them in hope, that time would breed the like *easiness* of con-
descending further unto them. *Hobbes, Pref.*
Since the custom of *easiness* to alter and change laws is so
evil, no doubt but to bear a tolerable fore is better than to
venture on a dangerous remedy. *Hobbes, b. iv. f. 14.*
Give to him, and he shall but laugh at your *easiness*; have
his life, but, when you have done, look to your own. *South.*
The safest way to secure honesty, is to lay the foundations
of it early in liberality, and an *easiness* to part with to others
whatever they have or like themselves. *Locke.*
3. Freedom from constraint; not effort; not formality.
Abstruse and mystick thoughts you must express
With painful care, but seeming *easiness*;
For truth shines brightest through the plainest dress. *Rafz.*
4. Rest; tranquillity.
I think the reason I have assigned hath a great interest in
that rest and *easiness* we enjoy when asleep. *Ray on the Creation.*
EAST. *n. f.* [eort, Saxon; *east*, Erse.]
1. The quarter where the sun rises.
They counting forwards towards the *East*, did allow
180 degrees to the Portugals eastward. *Aubin.*
2. The regions in the eastern parts of the world.
I would not be the villain that thou thinkest,
For the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp,
And the rich *East* to boot. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
EA'STER. *n. f.* [eayste, Saxon; *eastre*, Dutch.] The day on
which the Christian church commemorates our Saviour's re-
surrection.
Didst thou not fall out with a taylor for wearing his new
doublet before *Easter*? *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.*
Victor's unbrother-like heat towards the Eastern churches,
in the controversy about *Easters*, fomented that difference into
a schism. *Decay of Piety.*
EA'STERLY. *adj.* [from *Eaft*.]
1. Coming from the parts towards the East.
When the *easterly* winds or breezes are kept off by some
high mountains from the valleys, whereby the air, wanting
motion, doth become exceeding unhealthful. *Raleigh.*
2. Lying towards the East.
These give us a view of the most *easterly*, southerly, and
westerly parts of England. *Grant's Bills of Mortality.*
3. Looking towards the East.
Water he chafes clear, light, without taste or smell, drawn
not from snow, but from springs with an *easterly* exposition.
Arbutnot on Aliments.
EA'STERN. *adj.* [from *Eaft*.]
1. Dwelling or found in the East; oriental.
Eastern tyrants from the light of heaven
Seclude their bosom-slaves. *Thomson's Spring.*
2. Lying or being towards the East.
The *easterly* end of the Nile rises up in precipices. *Addison.*
3. Going towards the East.
A ship at sea has no certain method in either her *easterly* or
western voyages, or even in her less distant sailing from the
coasts, to know her longitude, or how much she is gone *eas-
ward* or westward, as can easily be known in any clear day or
night how much she is gone northward or southward. *Addison.*
4. Looking towards the East.
EA'STWARD. *adv.* [*Eaft* and *toward*.] Towards the East.
The moon, which performs its motion swifter than the
sun, gets *eastward* out of his rays, and appears when the
sun is set. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iv. c. 13.*
What shall we do, or where direct our flight?
Eastward, as far as I could cast my sight,
From op'ning heav'ns, I saw descending light. *Dryden.*
EA'SY. *adj.* [from *eafz*.]
1. Not difficult.
The service of God, in the solemn assembly of saints, is a
work, though *easy*, yet withal very weighty, and of great
respect. *Hobbes, b. x. f. 31.*
There is a slave, whose *easy*-borrow'd pride
Dwells in the fickle grace of her he follows. *Shak. K. Lear.*
How much it is in every one's power to make resolutions

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- to himself, such as he may keep, is *easy* for every one to
try. *Locke.*
The whole island was probably cut into several *easy* accents,
and planted with variety of palaces. *Addison on Italy.*
2. Quiet; at rest; not harassed; not disturbed; without
anxiety.
Those that are *easy* in their conditions, or their minds,
refuse often to enter upon publick charges and employ-
ment. *Temple.*
Keep their thoughts *easy* and free, the only temper wherein
the mind is capable of receiving new informations. *Locke.*
A marriage of love is pleasant, a marriage of interest *easy*,
and a marriage where both meet happy. *Addison's Spectator.*
When men are *easy* in their circumstances, they are natu-
rally enemies to innovations. *Addison's Freeholder, N^o. 22.*
A man should direct all his studies and endeavours at making
himself *easy* now, and happy hereafter. *Addison's Spectator.*
We plainly feel whether at this instant we are *easy* or un-
easy, happy or miserable. *Smalridge's Sermons.*
3. Complaisant; unresisting; credulous.
Baited with reasons not unpalatable,
Win me into the *easy* hearted man,
And hug him into snarcs. *Milton.*
With such deceits he gain'd their *easy* hearts,
Too prone to credit his perfidious arts. *Dryden's Æn.*
The kindest father I have ever found him,
Easy and good, and bounteous to my wishes. *Addison's Cato.*
4. Free from pain.
Another part, in squadrons and grots bands,
On bold adventure to discover wide
That dismal world, if any clime perhaps
Might yield them *easier* habitation. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Pleasure has been the business of my life,
And every change of fortune *easy* to me,
Because I still was *easy* to myself. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*
5. Ready; not unwilling.
Pity and he are one;
So merciful a king did never live,
Loth to revenge, and *easy* to forgive. *Dryden's Span. Fryar.*
6. Without want of more.
They should be allowed each of them such a rent as would
make them *easy*. *Swift's Arg. against abolishing Christianity.*
7. Without constraint; without formality.
Those move *easy* that have learn'd to dance. *Pope.*
Praise the *easy* vigour of a fine,
Where Denham's strength, and Waller's sweetness join. *Po.*
To EAT. *v. a.* preterite *ate*, or *eat*; part. *eat*, or *eaten*. [ecan,
Sax. *itan*, Gothick; *edib*, Erse.]
1. To devour with the mouth.
Locusts shall *eat* the residue of that which is escaped from
the hail, and shall *eat* every tree which groweth. *Ex. x. 5.*
Other flates cannot be accused for not staying for the first
blow, or for not accepting Polyphemus's courtesy, to be the
last that shall be *eaten* up. *Bacon's War with Spain.*
Even wormwood, *eat* with bread, will not bite, because it is
mixed with a great quantity of spittle. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
2. To consume; to corrode.
Thou best of gold art worst of gold;
Other less fine in carat is more precious,
Preserving life in medicine potable:
But thou, most fine, most honour'd, most renown'd,
Hast *eat* thy bearer up. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.*
They entail a secret curse upon their estates, which does
either insensibly waste and consume it, or *eat* out the heart
and comfort of it. *Johnson's Sermon 4.*
There arises a necessity of keeping the surface even, either
by pressure or *eating* medicines, that the eminence of the flesh
may not resist the fibres of the skin in their tendency to cover
the wound. *Sharp's Surgery.*
3. To swallow back; to retreat. This is only used of a man's
word.
They cannot hold, but burst out those words, which after-
wards they are forced to eat. *Hakewill on Providence.*
Credit were not to be lost
By a brave knight errant of the post,
That *eat*, perditionally, his word,
And swears his ears through a two inch board. *Hudibras.*
To EAT. *v. n.*
1. To go to meals; to take meals; to feed.
He did *eat* continually at the king's table. *2 Sa. ix. 13.*
And when the scribes and pharisees saw him *eat* with pub-
licans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, how is it that
he *eateth* with publicans and sinners? *Mat. ii. 16.*
2. To take food.
He that will not *eat* till he has a demonstration that it will
nourish him, he that will not stir till he infallibly knows the
business he goes about will succeed, will have little else to do
but sit still and perish. *Locke.*
3. To be maintained in food.
The righteous *eateth* to the satisfying of his soul, but the
belly of the wicked shall want. *Prov. xiii. 25.*

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- Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;
Care no more to cloath and eat. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*
4. To make way by corrosion.
The plague of sin has even altered his nature, and *eaten*
into his very essentials.
A prince's court *eats* too much into the income of a poor
state. *Addison's Italy.*
EATABLE. *n. f.* [from *eat*.] Any thing that may be eaten.
If you all sorts of persons would engage,
Suit well your *eatables* to ev'ry age. *King's Art of Cookery.*
EATER. *n. f.* [from *eat*.]
1. One that eats any thing.
The Caribbees and the Cannibals, almost all, are *eaters*
of man's flesh. *Aubin's Description of the World.*
A knave, a rascal, an *eater* of broken meats. *Sh. K. Lear.*
If the taste of this fruit maketh the *eaters* like gods, why
remainest thou a beast? *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. i. c. 1.*
As if the lotus grew only here, the virtue of whole fruit is
to cause in the *eaters* an oblivion of all other foils. *Hewel.*
2. A corrosive.
EATH. *adj.* [eas, Saxon.] *Eafy*; not difficult. An old
word.
Where ease abounds, it's *eath* to do amiss. *Fairy Queen.*
What works not beauty, man's relenting mind
Is *eath* to move with plaints and thews of woe. *Fairfax, b. iv.*
The way was strait and *eath*. *Fairfax.*
EATH. *adv.* [from the adjective.] *Eafily*. An old word.
Who hath the world not try'd,
From the right way full *eath* may wander wide. *Hubb. Tale.*
EATINGHOUSE. *n. f.* [eat and house.] A house where provi-
sions are sold ready dressed.
An hungry traveller slept into an *eatinghouse* for his
dinner. *L'Esfrange.*
EAVES. *n. f.* [eeyez, Saxon.] The edges of the roof which
overhang the house.
Every night he comes
With musick of all sorts, and songs compos'd
To her unworthiness: it nothing leads us
To chide him from our *eaves*; for he persists,
As if his life lay on't. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.*
His tears run down his beard, like Winter drops
From *eaves* of reeds. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
If in the beginning of Winter the drops of the *eaves* of
houses come more slowly down than they use, it portendeth a
hard and frosty Winter. *Bacon, N^o. 811.*
Usher'd with a shower still,
When the gulf hath blown his fill,
Ending on the ruffling leaves,
With minute drops from off the *eaves*. *Milton.*
The icicles hang down from the *eaves* of houses. *Woodward.*
To EAVESDROP. *v. a.* [*eaves* and *drop*.] To catch what
comes from the *eaves*; in common phrase, to listen under
windows.
EAVESDROPPER. *n. f.* [*eaves* and *drop*.] A listener under
windows.
Under our tents I'll play the *eavesdropper*,
To hear if any mean to shrink from me. *Shakespeare's Rich. III.*
EBB. *n. f.* [ebba, epplob, Saxon; *ebbe*, Dutch.]
1. The reflux of the tide towards the sea.
The clear sun on his wide wat'ry glass
Gaz'd hot, and of the fresh wave largely drew,
As after thirst; which made their flowing shrink
From standing lake to tripping *ebbs*, that stole
With soft foot tow'ards the deep. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Hither the seas at stated times resort;
And thence the laden vessels into port;
Then with a gentle *ebb* retire again,
And render back their cargo to the main. *Addison on Italy.*
2. Decline; decay; waste.
You have finished all the war, and brought all things to
that low *ebb* which you speak of. *Spenser on Ireland.*
This tide of man's life, after it once turneth and declineth,
ever runneth with a perpetual *ebb* and falling stream, but never
floweth again. *Raleigh's History of the World.*
Thus all the treasure of our flowing years,
Our *ebb* of life for ever takes away. *Roscommon.*
The greatest age for poetry was that of Augustus Cæsar,
yet painting was then at its lowest *ebb*, and perhaps sculpture
was also declining. *Dryden's Disfranchisement, Preface.*
Near my apartment let him pass his time,
That I his hourly *ebbs* of life may see. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*
Is it not this? To shed the flow remains,
His last poor *ebb* of blood in your defence? *Addison's Cato.*
To EBB. *v. n.* [from the noun.]
1. To flow back towards the sea.
Though my tide of blood
Hath proudly flow'd in vanity till now,
Now it doth turn and *ebb* back to the sea. *Shakespeare's Hen. IV.*
From thence the tide of fortune left their shore,
And *ebb'd* much faster than it flow'd before. *Dryden's Æn.*
2. To decline; to decay; to waste.